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Superstore set for Rocky Branch creek



City OK's stadium area development, environmental groups still skeptical

Kathryn Kranjc
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In a few years, USC may have a new neighbor on South Assembly Street — a 5.6-acre Walmart shopping center.

In a 6-to-1 vote, City Council officially decided to sell the Capitol City Baseball stadium area, currently home to the Columbia Blowfish, to an Atlanta developer for \$1 million. While no one has confirmed that a Walmart will be built there, the developer's ties to the corporation and the

latest urban push by Wal-Mart Inc. indicate the site will be home to the city's first downtown supercenter. Last year Bill Simon, president and CEO of Wal-Mart Inc., announced the company would be opening dozens of new stores across South Carolina, touting that the move would create over 4,000 jobs in the state.

City Council made the decision after hearing from representatives of AMEC Environment & Infrastructure that the construction would not worsen flooding in the Rocky Branch floodplain, where the stadium currently sits. AMEC was hired by the city in January to analyze the building's potential impact on Rocky Branch in order to

Courtesy of AMEC

Results of a three-month study by AMEC suggest a superstore could benefit the Rocky Branch floodplain.

ease dissent from Columbia residents and local environmental groups who claimed the project would exacerbate flooding and pollution in the already urbanized Rocky Branch Creek. The creek runs through Five Points, USC and Olympia before

ROCKY BRANCH ● 3



Blake Welch/ THE DAILY GAMECOCK

(Left to right) Fourth-year chemistry student Lauren Allen and recent public health graduate Dean Haire were among dozens of donors who gave blood in honor of Aimee Copeland at Monday's "Border Bash" blood drive.

Students, faculty give to 'Border Bash'

Community donates over 300 pints of blood in honor of Aimee Copeland

Rita Turner
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Dozens of USC students, faculty and staff stopped by the Sigma Phi Epsilon house Monday to give their blood in honor of Aimee Copeland, the 24-year-old University of Georgia graduate who remains in an Augusta hospital after a tragic accident and rare flesh-eating bacteria forced the amputation of her hands, left leg and right foot.

After his daughter went through 200 units of blood within the first few weeks of being in the hospital, Aimee's father Andy Copeland, a 1983 graduate of USC, asked the alumni associations of both USC and his daughter's alma mater to host a competitive blood drive in Aimee's honor. My Carolina Alumni Association worked with USC faculty and staff to organize Monday's "Border Bash" blood drive in the Greek Village.

Katie Rudder, a third-year marketing student and Red Cross intern, was one of the donors. Though she donates blood

regularly, Rudder decided to wait for this week's event because of its special meaning and ties to the Gamecock community.

"I love giving blood, especially when there's a little bit of a competition element between USC and UGA," Rudder said.

Andy Copeland made an appearance at the beginning of the blood drive to express his appreciation for the support of his fellow Gamecocks.

"I was lucky enough to meet Mr. Copeland, Aimee's dad,

BORDER BASH ● 3

Pianists, prodigies perform at festival

USC celebrates 10th annual music competition with prestigious lineup

Kathryn Kranjc
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It's not every year that USC piano professor Marina Lomazov's students get a one-on-one master class session with international music titans like former Leningrad Conservatory pianist Natalya Anatonova.

Then again, this is no ordinary year for the Southeastern Piano Festival. USC School of Music and the South Carolina Philharmonic are honoring the tenth anniversary of the prestigious music celebration with ground-breaking performances from renowned pianists and once-in-a-lifetime training opportunities for both undergraduate and pre-college music students.

The celebration began with a kickoff extravaganza concert Sunday afternoon, featuring a powerful concerto performance of "Mars the Bringer of War" played on five full-sized Steinway grand pianos by Lomazov, fellow USC faculty Charles Fugo and Joseph Rackers, and guest performer Phillip Bush from the University of Michigan. The performance gained a standing ovation from the full house at the Koger Center for the Arts, leaving Lomazov in particularly good spirits.

"It was an exhilarating experience," said Lomazov, who has been artistic director of the festival since its start in 2002. "It's rewarding to know that what we do reaches many, many different audiences, especially young audiences. We're very privileged that people have embraced the festival and hope to continue to bring fresh young talent to Columbia for many years

PIANISTS ● 2

Local performers hit produce aisles

Arts group brings musical number to grocery stores

Jared Owenby
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The local grocery scene was far from average Saturday and Sunday after several stores around Columbia were hit by a flash mob.

A small group of performers, organized by local arts organization Pocket Productions, sang songs in the aisles of six area grocery stores. They performed a tune from Grocery Store Musical, a piece by the New York-based group Improv Everywhere.

Jay Zenger, the main performer in the show, accompanied by USC music students Rebecca Wood, Kelsey Harrison and Katie Gatch, showed up like regular customers running a weekend errand to buy produce. A few minutes into their shopping though, they began dancing and singing, making the produce section their own stage for about five minutes. Some shoppers looked on with confusion while others stopped and smiled at the peculiar situation unfolding near the vegetables.

"It's the perfect way to break that barrier between public space and performance space by getting into people's routines and changing it up," said Sherry Warren, the executive director of Pocket Productions. "We love the idea of transforming a public space into a performance venue."

Warren said the idea behind the flash mob was to bring a little color and art into the mundane process of going to the grocery store. It's not every day a group of people perform a musical for a building full of strangers comparing



USC music students Kelsey Harrison and Katie Gatch (left) joined Midlands Tech student Jay Zenger (right) in song at Aldi.



Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

prices and thumbing through coupon books.

"Our mission is to innovate and collaborate through these public performances," said Kirill Simin, associate director of Pocket Production. "We've always been interested in merging the audience with the performance."

Despite being kicked out of one store during a performance, most people responded so well to the performance

that the group felt like they had gotten their message across.

"We've chosen for this particular project to ask for forgiveness rather than permission," said Aaron Pelzek, president of Pocket Productions' board and director of the grocery store musical endeavor. "I think all of these projects have the same goal. You're innovating people's ideas about the art around you. I think that if you can just get people smiling when they are streamlining

through their own life of stoicism, then that's the reason for these projects."

More projects are in the works for Pocket Productions. Information about other performances and projects can be found at www.pocketproductions.org/contact/ and on the group's facebook page www.facebook.com/pocketproductions.

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Boren student China-bound

2012 scholarship winner explores dance and politics

Rita Turner
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Third-year dance performance and political science student Kathryn Miles is one of 161 undergraduates in the country to receive the prestigious Boren Scholarship. The \$20,000 award will take her on her second trip to China this fall to study Mandarin and Chinese culture at Njing University.

Boren Scholars come from various cultures and must express an interest in national security and foreign languages, according to the organization's website. The award was founded to send students to less commonly traveled countries for intensive language study. After fulfilling scholarship requirements, students have to work in the federal government for at least a year in an area of national security.

Miles' proposal for the Boren stemmed from her interest in public affairs and educating the American public about Chinese culture. Earlier this year Miles completed an independent study dance research project entitled "Politics of Dance" under the guidance of dance department chair Susan Anderson. She analyzed two ballets produced by the Chinese government during the country's cultural revolution and compared them with dance in the United States today.

"I am interested in merging political science and dance. I wanted to explore political culture of dance in China specifically during the Cultural Revolution," Miles said. "I feel that it is vital to involve the public more in foreign

policy and increasing awareness of that."

Last summer Miles went to Chengdu, China, as a part of a study abroad program. After returning, the study abroad office encouraged her to apply for the Boren. Miles feels the culture shock she experienced last summer has prepared her for a challenging year ahead.

"The experience gave me confidence that I can do it, that I can go away for a year," Miles said. "It solidified my interest in going back. I was so excited when I found out (I had won). I called my mom and started crying."

Miles spent several months working with the Sarah Langston, who is the advisor to the Boren Scholarship at USC, and other university staff from the Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs to help tailor her essays to the Boren requirements. Despite the many revisions of her statements of purpose, Miles continued to work on perfecting her application.

"I knew when I began that it was would a big task to do it. I honestly spent more time working on the Boren application than I did for some of my classes in the fall semester," Miles said.

Miles said she used the process as a way to confirm her career path.

"Through applying for it I know more of what I want to do," Miles said. "I was able to talk to more of my professors and get to know them throughout the process."

Miles has to take a language test before and after the trip to measure how much she has learned. While in China, she would like to continue the study of dance as an active participant.

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PIANISTS ● Continued from 1

to come."

Each year, 20 of the world's most talented pre-college pianists are chosen to participate in the festival's rigorous training program. This year's participants, who range from ages 13 to 18 and come from as far as Australia, are practicing up to five hours a day, learning from USC piano faculty and visiting international guest artists, including Anotonova, Peabody Institute Piano Department Chair Boris Slutsky and Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient Alessio Bax.

The week will end in the highly anticipated Arthur Fraser International Concerto Competition, the winner of which will receive a \$3,000 scholarship from Rice Music House and perform a complete concerto with the South Carolina Philharmonic.

The Southeastern Piano Festival is about more than competition, however. This celebration also features performances from past Arthur Fraser winners, including Leo Svirsky and Sean Yeh, as well as international prodigies. Sixteen-year-old George Li, winner of the 2012 Gilmore Young Artist Award and member of the New England Conservatory's Vivance Trio, performed at Rising Star Showcase at the Koger Center Tuesday evening.

"One of the most significant things about reaching the 10-year mark is being able to bring back so many young emerging pianists who have gone through the program and who are now forging their careers in music," Lomazov said. "For us to bring them back and present them



Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

to the audience is a testament [to] how much they have grown and how much they are contributing to the music world."

One former participant included in this week's showcase is third-year piano performance student Andrew Sohn. A former Arthur Fraser participant himself, Sohn said his two years in the competition influenced his decision to study music at USC, which he and other students consider a "hidden gem" of the music world.

"It was definitely a deciding factor in my becoming a musician," Sohn said. "This festival is quickly becoming one of the most prestigious among young artists, and just the name itself being associated with USC is something to show off."

More information about Southeastern Piano Festival events, special guests and the Arthur Fraser International Concerto competition can be viewed at <http://sepf.music.sc.edu/>.

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CALVIN KOON-STACK

JUNIOR, ENGLISH MAJOR

Calvin started as a DJ for **WUSC** his freshman year and then went on to serve as program director. He is now on tap to serve as the 2012 – 2013 **station manager**.

Calvin's time with WUSC has helped him with various **professional development skills**; from managing his peers to learning how to to compromise effectively, he is definitely getting experience early and setting himself apart from his peers.

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emptying into the Congaree River, and it is a frequent source of flooding.

“It is possible to build in a way that will be invisible to the system, but you need smart site development,” AMEC representative Andrew Reese said at a public Q-and-A session Wednesday. “It will largely be up to the developer whether this is done precisely.”

AMEC suggested that the development could actually benefit the area by working with the Rocky Branch Watershed Alliance to fund creek restoration and Greenway development projects.

Nonetheless, members of the alliance remain skeptical. The group’s chairman, USC earth and water sciences professor Venkat Lakshmi, says that even if flooding at the building site is unaffected, which he doubts, the study still misses the big picture. Lakshmi pointed out that Five Points will still get the worst of the flooding, referring to the most recent flash flood in September of 2011, when a particularly unrelenting rainstorm caused creek overflow that submerged cars and damaged buildings.

“I think we’re not doing a full-body scan,” Lakshmi said. “A Walmart is only part of the problem. Rocky Branch Creek will still flood. We need a more holistic approach, not just patch-ups at one site. The study also did not address any pollution concerns.”

Executive Director of Sustainable Midlands Ryan Nevius, who co-founded the Rocky Branch Watershed

Alliance, said she was disappointed that the city did not allow time for the public to digest the study results before making an official decision. When City Council held a public presentation of AMEC’s study results, Nevius said the alliance actually advised most residents not to attend, as she knew the discussion would be technical without any mention of policy changes.

“We knew a lot of people’s questions wouldn’t be answered,” Nevius said. “The city did not provide them with that opportunity.”

The decision has been made, but no contract has been signed yet by City Manager Steve Gantt. Following the vote, amendments were added to the contract that would place tight city regulations on the development plans. These ensure the developer abides by AMEC’s building recommendations. The developer has six months to gain approval from city planning and zoning, FEMA, the Army Engineering Corps and others before any changes to the stadium can be made.

Whether or not the developer will follow suggested “green infrastructure” regulations remains as uncertain as when construction will begin. One thing is certain — efforts to revitalize Rocky Branch Creek will continue with or without a Walmart.

“It’s not over,” Nevius said. “This story is just beginning.”

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BORDER BASH ●
Continued from 1

and he was so positive and very inspiring. He gave us a hearty ‘Go Gamecocks!’ before he left. It was definitely an inspiring and quite powerful moment to meet him,” Rudder said.

By 2 p.m., 50 donors had come by the drive to give their blood in Aimee’s name, according to Lauren Way, the Red Cross’s marketing manager.

Rudder heard about the story through the Red Cross about a week ago. She did some

research and followed Andy Copeland’s blog.

“It really kind of hit home, especially for college kids and people our age. To think that something like this could really happen was scary,” said Rudder.

The USC community came together and donated more than 300 units of blood, according to WSBTV Action News. Donors also signed a banner at the blood drive to show their love and support to the Copeland family. The banner will be moved to Aimee Copeland’s hospital room after she

is moved out of the ICU.

“This is our job every day, but when you put a face with what we do, it just makes it all the more important,” said Dienna Wright, a Red Cross team supervisor. “It brings back the importance of what we do and why we do it.”

The Red Cross will be accepting donations on behalf of Copeland this week on Wednesday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the donation center at 2751 Bull St.



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Council must enforce study’s suggestions

Last week the City Council approved a plan to develop the Capital City Baseball Stadium into what’s almost certainly going to be a Walmart. While the idea is still bogged down by concerns about flooding, pollution, small businesses and of course where the Blowfish will find a new home, there are several potential benefits to consider.

A Walmart could create jobs and continue to pull our state economy out of the gutter.

“Without a watchful eye from city officials this development could go horribly wrong...”

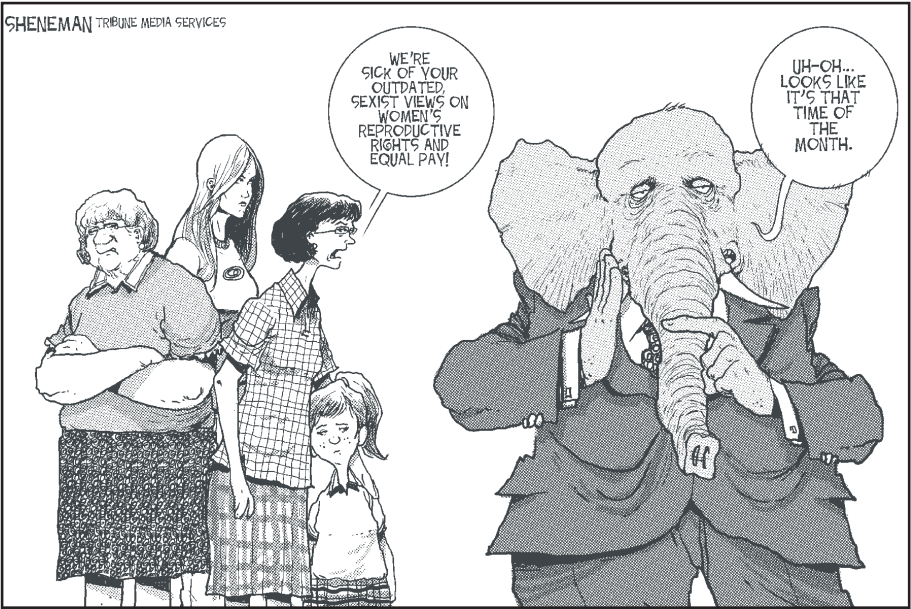
Such a lucrative large-scale corporation could certainly spare a few million dollars of its revenue to help fund “green” initiatives in the area. It could give students a much closer, much larger place to buy all of their necessities, from ink cartridge refills to Red Bull, at generally low prices.

We’re not against Walmart itself. We may not even be against the development of the land at all. But without a watchful eye from city officials this development could go horribly wrong and leave the City of Columbia both remorseful and underwater.

The amendments to the contract that place regulations on the developer are a good sign, but in order to keep this project from becoming a disaster the city must follow through with AMEC’s suggestions of working with environmental groups to ensure runoff from this new supercenter doesn’t worsen Columbia’s flooding problem.

We appreciate the fact that the Council took the time to have the study done, even if it was just a formality, but they haven’t quite covered all their bases. No matter how AMEC or the Council spins it, they are still pouring more concrete on a floodplain. The issue of pollution still needs to be addressed, as does the frequent flooding of Five Points. If we can pull the resources of this huge company and apply them to some of the goals of groups like the Rocky Branch Watershed Alliance, the development could be a progressive move for Columbia and set precedence for urban and environmental integration in other cities.

Several months from now, we may see more definite plans for the development. Hopefully, it won’t be a soggy mess.



Flawed rating agencies too influential

2014 downgrade could threaten US economy

Last fall, the U.S. economy suffered a heavy blow when the rating agency Standard & Poor’s took away the country’s AAA credit rank. It seems that this summer history will repeat itself. The now-infamous rating agency announced Friday that if the American government does not control bipartisan division and rein in its fiscal strategy, the national credit ranking may drop again by 2014. Losing another rank will lead to even more tumult and confusion for the global market, a chilling fact that many Western countries have witnessed as their ratings decline. Unfortunately, this threat is based in very real concerns. The friction between Democrats and Republicans has made issues like national debt, tax revenue or federal spending almost impossible to discuss — and even more impossible to resolve. Even as a few hopeful numbers indicate an economy ready to begin its recovery, the political future of this country remains bleak.



Michael Lambert
Fourth-year French student

However, the precariousness of the situation cannot hide the fact that rating agencies like Standard & Poor’s exercise an undue amount of influence over national economies.

It seems the real danger nowadays is not from extremists plotting in bunkers, but from accountants behind notepads.

What’s so wrong with rating agencies? The primary problem is a lack of competition. About 95 percent

of the market for rating agencies is controlled by the “Big Three” — Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s and Fitch Ratings. Without more companies and more diverse ratings, a great deal of power is held by a very small number of analysts.

Furthermore, the rating that an agency gives a business or a country can only be considered an opinion. It is therefore protected as a form of free speech, leaving rating agencies innocent of all the effects that may stem from that rating — like, say, a market scare. France learned this the hard way when, after Standard & Poor’s accidentally downgraded the national credit ranking last fall due to a software error, it saw its market weakened by several points. Ministers called for action against the agency, but with no luck: Legally, the agency was not responsible.

The real icing on the cake, though, is the way in which rating agencies are compensated for their reports. Most of the larger agencies are paid by the very organizations they are ranking — a system that so blatantly corrupt it could cause vertigo. The type of influence this creates between a client and a rating agency has no doubt skewed the numbers before and will continue to do so without intervention.

Ultimately, the U.S. must do something to address the practices of rating agencies by opening the market to more competition and pulling its financial institutions away from their dependence on these ranks. By doing nothing, the country will leave itself open to painful market fluctuations based merely on offhanded threats and high-minded analyses that, in the end, accomplish very little — if anything.

Spain bailout unlikely to ease European crisis

Financial instability will continue in region

Following the offer of an aid package of up to \$125 billion from European finance ministers on Saturday, Spain finally agreed to accept a bailout for its cash-starved banks.

The announcement of the deal came amid growing fears that instability in Spain would significantly drag down an already faltering world economy.

After initially resisting the idea of a bailout, prime minister Mario Rajoy hailed the deal with Brussels as a “victory” for Spain and the eurozone. “European credibility won, the future of the euro won [and] Europe won,” he said in a statement Sunday.

Ideally, the bailout would lubricate the creaking wheels of Spain’s economy, the unemployment rate would drop and a majority of the bailout would be repaid.

But this bailout is unlikely to convince financial markets of any kind of stability for long and the cost will, even if indirectly, be added to Spain’s public debt. In fact, Spain’s public debt is expected to increase by around 10 percent as a result, according to Open Europe, a London-based think tank. The current plan could quickly raise Spain’s debt to more than 90 percent of its gross domestic product. It’s clear that the bailout is not a permanent solution, and Spain’s leader, including Rajoy, have to find a way to actually work toward fixing the problem, instead of putting it off for a few years.

Unfortunately for Spain, it seems it may be too little too late.



Molly McCarthy
Second-year public relations student

Santorum launches hypocritical new website

Conservative goals and fears outlined in multi-million dollar grassroots movement

Failed Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum has launched a new website called Patriot Voices, which is designed to “mobilize one million conservatives around this country who are committed to promoting faith, family, freedom and opportunity.” Aside from the unspoken implication that anyone who disagrees with Santorum isn’t a patriot, the website claims that his followers believe in several principles.

“We stand for the defeat of Barack Obama and those who support his radical agenda.” Republicans are angry at the president for the agenda progressives wish he had. In truth, President Obama has failed to live up to the promise many who voted for him expected. Detainees still rot away in Guantanamo, drones are killing more suspected terrorists than ever and he signed a bill allowing the government to arrest anyone and detain them without habeas corpus. The reality is that, aside from a few pro-LGBT policies, this president has largely continued the policies of President Bush.

“We stand for healthy families and a healthy economy.” Republicans have opposed every attempt to reform health care in this country — at least, since it became a Democratic agenda piece. Enormous chunks of “Obamacare” were actually proposed by the Republicans back during Hillary Clinton’s attempt to push universal health care. Meanwhile, they’ve fought to push women’s rights back fifty years.

“We stand for freedom and its defenders.” Republican congressmen have consistently been pushing through cuts to serviceman benefits like health care and proper armor, while continuing to magnify the deficit by feeding the military-industrial complex. The website specifically mentions the missile defense shield, a Cold War relic that has never worked and may actually amplify nuclear threats to the U.S. while failing to guard against potential terrorist attacks like suitcase nukes.

“We stand for the repeal of Obamacare and other government dependency programs that infringe on our

freedoms, including religious freedom.” Obamacare — those few provisions that have avoided being blocked by Republican intractability — has allowed millions of Americans to afford health insurance when they couldn’t before. Meanwhile, Republicans across the country are fighting an imaginary Islamic threat while simultaneously trying to impose a fundamentalist Christian doctrine through radical legislation.

“We will always stand up for the most vulnerable among us — the unborn, the disabled, the elderly and the poor.” This statement is so laughable that it’s a joke. Republicans in every state have slashed public services to the bone. Welfare benefits are in the process of being eliminated completely. Only the unborn are protected through Draconian anti-abortion, but as soon as people are born, the Republicans stop caring.

Santorum’s “grassroots” community — funded by millions of dollars unleashed through the Citizens United decision — is an example of Republican hypocrisy. Its so-called compassionate conservatism is a radical agenda designed to promote the elite few at the cost of everyone else. It’s time to take our country back.



Scott Horn
Fourth-year political science student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community.

All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length

and include the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

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‘Pretty Girls’ illustrates feminism

50 artists explore female issues with variety of mediums

Kristyn Winch
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A mannequin covered in magazine clippings, beer bottles topped with Barbie doll heads and an old sewing machine turned into a lamp are just a few of the pieces on display at Tapp’s Art Center this month. These works are part of “Concept: Consumerism,” the latest exhibit from local artist collective Pretty Girls. This is the second annual Pretty Girls exhibit and the show’s organizers said it won’t be the last.

“I’m sure it will keep evolving in different ways,” said Olivia Thompson, one of the show’s organizers. “Last year was a lot different than this year and I’m sure that next year is going to be completely different from both years.” Thompson started the Pretty Girls project while interning with fiber and materials studies artist Susan Lenz at 80808 Vista Studios in 2011. Lenz offered Thompson the gallery to hold her first show and Thompson enlisted her friends to help fill the space. Thompson, who is 21 years old, attended the Academy for the Arts in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in high school but is not currently studying art formally.

Thompson was surprised by the response from the community, as this year’s show features work from 50 artists. Submissions were generated by flyers and word-of-mouth. The artists range in age from 21 to 60 and both male and females contributed to the show. When visitors walk into the Tapp’s Art Center, they instantly get a taste of the show as they are greeted with a display case filled with dismembered Barbie dolls. After stepping through the glass doors into the lobby, viewers come

face-to-face with a variety of images, from a blue-skinned Sikh Indian goddess to a modern, sexualized portrait of Rosie, the robot maid from “The Jetsons.”

Each piece in the show touches on a range of female issues including motherhood, body image and domestic roles. Contributing artists chose a variety of mediums to convey their messages. Standout works include Whitney LeJuene’s “Our Daughters,” an oil paint and mixed media work depicting a young girl dressed in a garment made of domestic items and beauty products, Molly Harrell’s “Athena Gets Her Wings,” a mixed media piece portraying a modern-day Greek goddess framed with the text of an Orphic Hymn crushing a can of Red Bull in her hand and Thompson’s sarcastic “‘Greeting’ Cards” featuring slogans like “Gorge yourself” and “Say Santa made it.”

The work in “Concept: Consumerism” may elicit many emotions from viewers. Some make you laugh and some spark controversy, while others are heart-wrenching, like Deana Rennick’s “632 Wando,” a tiny model of a house the artist pined for but then discovered it had been purchased by another home buyer.

The founders of Pretty Girls credit the growth of the project to the strength of the arts in Columbia. “People here really want to be a part of something bigger than themselves and that is really special to me,” Thompson said. Support from the show benefits Friends of the Tapp’s Arts Center, a new non-profit program that creates art workshops for children. Tapp’s Arts Center is located at 1644 Main St. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission to the exhibit is free. The Pretty Girls exhibit will be on display for the entire month of June.

— Thomasin Holly, contributing reporter



Courtesy of the Pretty Girls

Whitney LeJuene is one of the artists on display in “Concept: Consumerism.”

‘Prometheus’ lacks characterization, conclusion

Stunning visuals, strong supporting cast offset disappointing screenplay

Tyler Simpson
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“PROMETHEUS”
NOW IN THEATERS



Director: Ridley Scott
Starring: Noomi Rapace, Logan Marshall-Green, Charlize Theron
Rating: R for violence including some intense images, and brief language

It’s been 30 years since director Ridley Scott made his mark in the science fiction world with “Alien” (1979) and “Blade Runner” (1982). That fact alone hyped up the anticipation for his latest science-fiction epic “Prometheus,” which has been marketed as a prequel to the “Alien” franchise.

Despite the advertising choice, one does not need to be familiar with the “Alien” mythology to appreciate what occurs in “Prometheus.” As a stand-alone film, “Prometheus” was made for an IMAX screen, boasting pure visual grandeur on par with “Avatar.” However, it doesn’t exactly live up to its hype due to shallow characterization and anticlimactic payoff.

The film’s title, as well as the name of the ship, refers to the Greek titan Prometheus who helped create humans and gave fire to mankind. Through the same mythology, “Prometheus” valiantly asks the big questions like “Where did mankind come from?,” only to settle for very banal answers.

“Prometheus” takes us into the future where a team of scientists, led by Elizabeth Shaw (Noomi Rapace) and

her lover Charlie Holloway (Logan Marshall-Green), discover a cross-cultural pictogram that leads them to a moon in a distant solar system. Funded by private company Weyland Corp. and led by its ice-queen chief executive Meredith Vickers (Charlize Theron), an expedition occurs aboard the vessel Prometheus to this moon where Shaw hopes to find evidence of the “Engineers,” an alien race she believes created mankind.

Also aboard Prometheus is the film’s most interesting character (and he is not even human), an emotionless android named David, played brilliantly by Michael Fassbender. Fassbender gives the movie’s grandest performance as an android that models himself after Peter O’Toole in “Lawrence of Arabia” and lives on a mixture of curiosity, detachment and arrogance. His own motives for this expedition are inscrutable as he, along with Vickers, has his own agenda.

As for the human characters, they remain too simplistic and underwritten, though Rapace’s character is a possible exception. Shaw is definitely the most rounded, as we see glimpses of her childhood that help us understand what motivates her through this expedition and we become compelled enough to feel for her when her faith is tested.

The screenplay fills up the narrative with plenty of quotable lines and the traditional “Alien” gore, but focuses more on the mystery than it does on the protagonists. “Prometheus” is more about solving the mystery of humanity’s creation, answering questions about the Engineers’ motivations and introducing the series of events that lead to the birth of the signature alien species.

With the high-minded subject matter comes frustration, as “Prometheus” is more interested in piling on the questions than it is answering them, leaving “Alien” fans and newcomers alike wanting more.

“Prometheus” is worth watching for one reason: the magnificently realized visual scope that original “Alien” couldn’t technically accomplish. The film opens with



a short tour of its gorgeous landscape created through sheer visual spectacle. Whether or not to see the film in 3D would be up to viewers since the 3D neither enhances nor degrade the visuals, but it does help the viewer get lost in this dreamlike world.

“Prometheus” would be nearly perfect if the conclusion weren’t so disappointing and the movie had focused more on characterization. Still, the movie deserves points for its gorgeous visual landscapes, the performances of the Fassbender and Rapace and its suspenseful and thought-provoking material.

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Courtesy of MCT Campus

Charlize Theron (left) and Idris Elba (right) star as part of a crew of scientists in “Prometheus,” director Ridley Scott’s latest installment in the “Alien” movie franchise.

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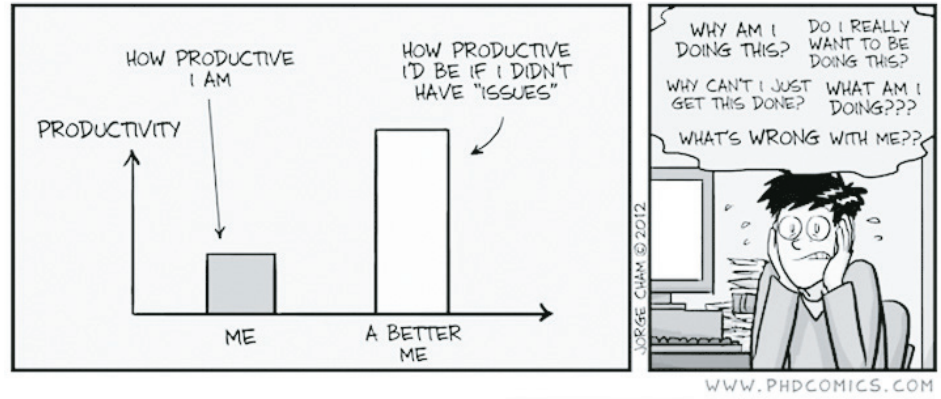
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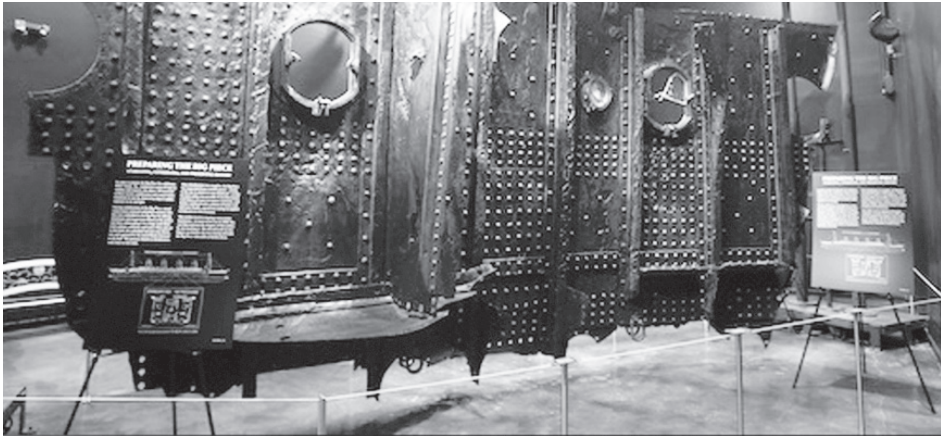


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Taurus

Encourage a friend to do the research. They have an interest, too. If you can't get what you need close to home, look farther away. You're gaining respect and status.

Gemini

Take care of kitchen repairs. Spend less and save up for something you really need. Compare costs to check all the options. A partner fields an opportunity.

Cancer

Your standards could get challenged but they hold to the test. Stick to your core values. Add enthusiasm. A partner finds this enticing. A new locale inspires you.

Leo

Draw upon inner strength to navigate today's obstacle course with ease. Thank a nag for the reminder. Don't bend the rules. Renegotiate terms. Mop up messes immediately.

Virgo

Choose private over public. Improve communication channels for ease. Be sure to read the small print, and take over for a friend who's indisposed.

Libra

You're better at negotiating than you give yourself credit for. Keep your feet on the ground and complete an important task. Keep to your priorities.

Scorpio

Get into studies for extra productivity. Avoid distractions. You may need to turn down an invitation. Reward yourself well when the job's done.

Sagittarius

Things are about to get busier. Leave your savings intact for now. Pay bills before going shopping. Remind yourself today of something you did really well.

Capricorn

Spend time to perfect your home environment. Stick to the budget. Face-to-face interactions produce great ideas. Spend some time playing outdoors.

Aquarius

Look closely to see the way of things. Don't cut corners, even if tempted. There's a reward for going the long way. Go back to basics. It's hidden in plain sight.

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1 Actress Anderson

5 Like one who limps

9 Exhausted, with "out"

14 Sportscaster Hersher

15 Director Kazan

16 Biscotti flavoring

17 Sagacious

18 Computer storage medium

19 Aquarium fish

20 Dairy food with loose curds

23 Pub pint

24 Buddhist sect

25 Many shoppers buy on it

28 Bare minimum

30 Jibs and spinnakers

33 Often-flowery verse

34 "Is it soup ___?"

36 Letters before an alias

37 Bed with a mate

38 Dip for veggies

42 "I've Gotta ___": Sammy Davis Jr. hit

43 Fair-hiring inits.

44 "Casablanca" pianist

45 Honest prez

46 Idyllic places

48 Lukewarm

52 Internal Revenue Code expert

54 Stable diet?

56 Brian with the album "Music for Airports"

57 Tenderloin often served with

61 Pandemonium

63 Jackson 5 member

64 Glitch

65 Songstress Lena

66 Gunk

67 Remote button

68 Broke off, as talks

69 Ballyhoo

70 Suffix with road or hip

DOWN

1 Like diet beverages

2 Baltimore bird

3 Lipton rival

4 Abba's "___ the Music Speak"

5 Rocky projection

6 Martians and such

7 Catchall abbr.

8 For one

9 Track transactions

10 Occupied, as a lavatory

11 "Put a lid on it!"

12 Sixth sense, for short

13 Susan of "L.A. Law"

21 Ancient Mexican

22 Mercedes-Benz model series

26 Beatnik's "Gotcha"

27 Finger count

29 "Auld Lang ___"

31 Hank with 755 career homers

32 Tina Turner's ex

35 Precisely, after "on"

37 Game-stopping call

38 Country singer McEntire

39 "Don't leave home without it"

40 Poor grade

41 Mythical mangoat

42 Halloween decoration

46 Rubbed off the board

47 "Zip your lip!"

49 Bar snack item

50 Present from birth

51 Los Angeles ballplayer

53 "E.T. ___ home"

55 Place to live, one of which starts the three longest puzzle

convenience

40 Poor grade

41 Mythical mangoat

42 Halloween decoration

46 Rubbed off the board

47 "Zip your lip!"

49 Bar snack item

50 Present from birth

51 Los Angeles ballplayer

53 "E.T. ___ home"

55 Place to live, one of which starts the three longest puzzle

answers

58 Cut with acid

59 Breezy

60 Doctrines

61 Revolutionary

62 Guevara

62 Darlin'

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2

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1 2

9 2 7

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Solution

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2 9 8 2 8 1 9 7 6

2 6 1 7 9 9 2 8 8

1 2 2 9 7 8 9 6 8

6 8 9 1 2 9 8 2 7

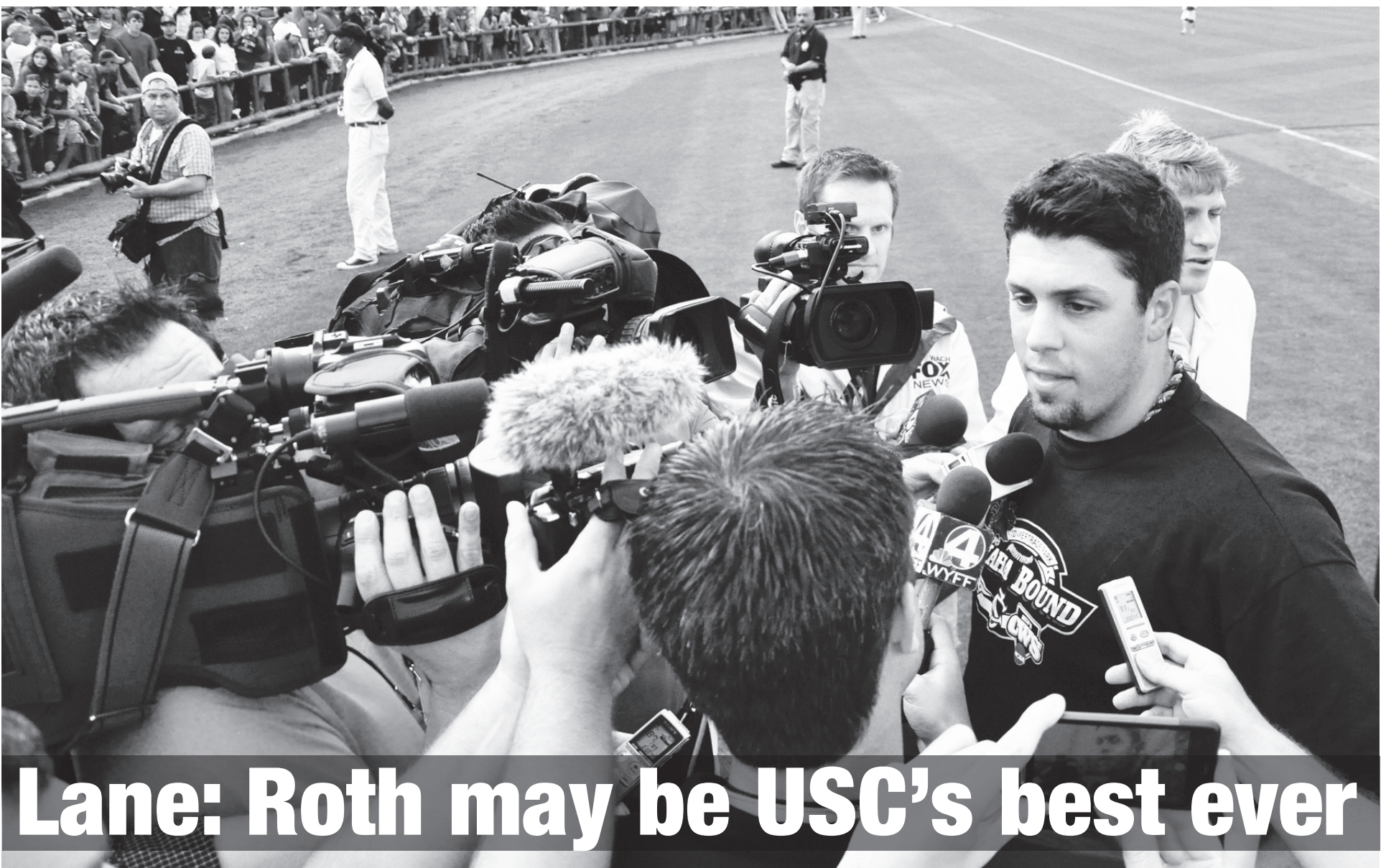
9 7 8 6 8 2 2 9 1

9 2 9 8 1 7 6 8 2

8 1 6 8 9 2 7 9 2

7 8 2 9 2 6 8 1 9

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Lane: Roth may be USC’s best ever

Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Gamecock pitcher unique for athletic, academic accomplishments

Rixon Lane

SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

George Rogers won the 1980 Heisman Trophy, was an All-American running back and was the No. 1 overall pick in the 1981 NFL draft.

Alex English made more baskets than any Gamecock in school history, ranks second all-time in points scored, and averaged over 21 points per game in a 17-year NBA career.

There have been a multitude of stellar athletes who have taken the field for the South Carolina Gamecocks.

But on Saturday night, many USC fans may have seen the greatest player ever in person for the final time. And if he isn't your favorite Gamecock of all time, he should be.

Michael Roth wasn't supposed to pitch. While at Riverside High School, he was a 2006 and 2007 Louisville Slugger All-American. He was listed as a "multi-position player" as an outfielder and a pitcher. He was battling for the starting job at first base in his freshman season. He was less than enthusiastic when the coaching staff decided the majority of his contributions to the team might not come from the plate. "He didn't take that too well, when we started using him on the mound," head coach Ray Tanner said. "He said 'Coach, I'm a hitter, I can hit.'"

There are hundreds, thousands of baseball players who want to pitch. They dream of taking the mound for key games. Roth took the role reluctantly and proceeded to become a legend. But that's not why he should be your favorite.

Roth also wasn't supposed to start in the College World Series. When USC's pitching staff was gassed after two consecutive elimination game wins in Omaha in 2010 and with Clemson looming the following day, South Carolina gambled on a relief pitcher who hadn't started a game in over 14 months. Roth told Tanner before the game that he would pitch until his arm fell off. Tanner guessed that would take about an inning.

There are pitchers who can dominate all season long but can't handle the biggest stage. Michael Roth took the mound in Omaha for the very first time and threw a complete game three-hitter. He has started five games at the College World Series, including two national championship clinchers, and hasn't lost a single one. But that's not why he should be your favorite.

Michael Roth wasn't supposed to be a highly drafted pitcher. His fastball tops out in the mid-80s. He doesn't have the intimidating glare of a Randy Johnson or the

overpowering arsenal of a Matt Price. He doesn't look like he should be successful, doesn't look like a 9th-round draft pick.

There are countless pitchers who are not able to light up radar guns. They see hitters send their 84-mph pitches into the parking lots. Michael Roth has not only survived without outstanding velocity, he has dominated. But that's not why he should be your favorite.

Michael Roth shouldn't be a major league pitcher. He should be a CEO. His academic record is even more impressive than his microscopic ERA. He's made the SEC's Academic Honor Roll in each of his four years at USC. He is a two-time First Team Academic All-American. "Student-athlete" is a term that usually causes eyeballs to roll, but not with Roth.

There are athletes who could not locate their school's library if you gave them a map, a GPS and a search dog. They view college as a multi-year training ground before they embark on their careers as professional athletes. Michael Roth has exemplified the best qualities of a student-athlete. But that's not why he should be your favorite.

The reason Michael Roth should be your favorite Gamecock of all time is this: If you told him that he was the greatest USC athlete to ever set foot on campus, he would probably smile and say he was honored. He would probably say thank you. He would probably say that being the most successful Gamecock athlete in history doesn't matter to him at all.

And he would be telling the truth.

Staley, McCray receive honor

USC basketball coaches inducted into Hall of Fame

Rixon Lane

SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The South Carolina women's basketball program has slowly been adding lines to its resume lately. Last season, the Gamecocks made a run to the Sweet 16 and finished with their best overall and conference records in over a decade. Now, they can boast of having two Hall of Famers on their coaching staff.

USC head women's basketball coach Dawn Staley and assistant coach Nikki McCray were inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame as members of the class of 2012 this weekend in Knoxville, Tenn. Both were inducted in their first year of eligibility.

Staley has experienced success on the hardwood as both a player and a coach. A three-time All-American at the University of Virginia, Staley led the Cavaliers to three Final Four appearances in four seasons, reaching the national championship game in 1991. Staley was also named the ACC Player of the Year twice during her collegiate career.

As a pro, Staley was a two-time all-star for the Richmond/Philadelphia Rage of the American Basketball League. Staley was the ninth overall pick in the 1999 WNBA draft, where she proceeded to be named an all-star five times in eight seasons.

Staley's success as a player continued in Olympic competition, as she was a member of the United States' women's basketball teams that won Olympic gold medals in 1996, 2000 and 2004. Staley was also an assistant coach on the gold medal team in 2008.

Before arriving at South Carolina, Staley was the head coach at Temple University for eight seasons. She led the

Owls to the NCAA tournament in six of her eight years at the helm. Under Staley's guidance, the Gamecocks have increased their number of wins every season since Staley's arrival in Columbia.

"Not in my wildest dreams did I think I would be part of such an elite group," Staley said. "The basketball gods have done me right over the years, and hopefully I'll be able to repay my debt to basketball."

Much like Staley, Nikki McCray enjoyed great success during her playing days. McCray was an All-American at Tennessee for head coach Pat Summitt. She was also named the SEC Player of the Year her junior and senior seasons at UT. McCray was also highly successful in international competition. She was a member of the U.S. gold medal squads in 1996 and 2000.

"All the things that [Pat Summitt] taught me, the foundation that she installed in me, this is the result of it," McCray said. "This is what it's all about."

After leaving Knoxville, McCray led the Columbus Quest to the American Basketball League's first ever championship, for which she was named the most valuable player. McCray made the leap to the WNBA in 1998, starting for the Washington Mystics. McCray was named to three all-star teams in her WNBA career before retiring from the league after the 2006 season.

South Carolina's women's basketball team finished last year with a 25-10 overall record under the leadership of Staley and McCray. The team also finished conference play with a 10-6 record. The Gamecocks advanced all the way to the Sweet 16 before falling to Stanford.

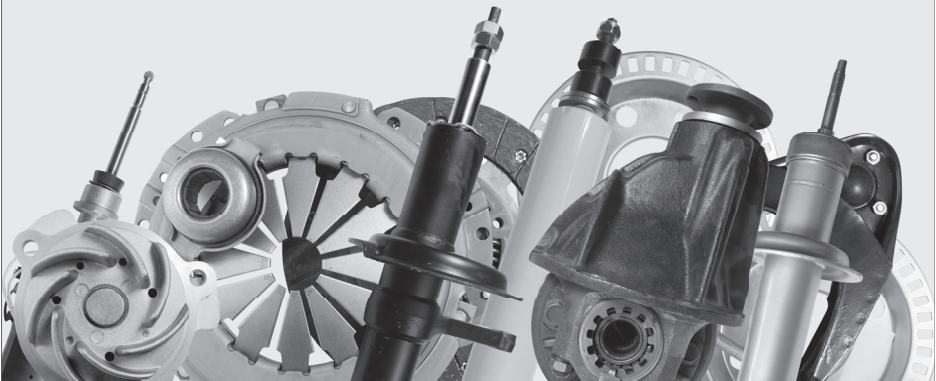
Staley and McCray were two of the six inductees that were welcomed into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame this weekend. The other inductees were Pamela McGee, Inge Nissen, Nancy Fahey and Robin Roberts.

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USC returns to Omaha



Photos by Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Tanner English slides home in the Gamecocks' 5-1 win over OU

*South Carolina heading to CWS
for 3rd consecutive year*

Rixon Lane

SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Omaha, Neb., is becoming "Columbia Midwest."

South Carolina is making its third consecutive trip to college baseball's mecca. The Gamecocks enter this year's College World Series as the two-time defending champions after closing down Rosenblatt Stadium with their first title and opening TD Ameritrade Park with their second. This year, USC is poised to meet some familiar foes in the CWS. The Gamecocks will be fighting to represent bracket two in the national title series. Here's how the bracket breaks down:

South Carolina (45-17)

The Gamecocks are 5-0 in postseason play after sweeping Oklahoma in the Columbia Super Regional, where they outscored the Sooners 10-1. South Carolina's program has had plenty of experience under the bright lights of the College World Series, but this year's squad features several starters who will be making their first trips to Omaha. USC's big bat is Christian Walker, a fourth-round pick of the Baltimore Orioles who enters the CWS with a .315 batting average and 11 homeruns. The Gamecocks' pitching staff boasts a 3.06 ERA, which ranks 17th in the nation. South Carolina's .979 fielding percentage is tied with Florida for the best in the field of eight.

Florida (47-18)

The Gators are also making a third consecutive trip to Omaha, the first time in the program's history that they've achieved that mark. Florida has a knack for the long ball, as the Gators have pounded out 75 homeruns this season. Catcher Mike Zunino, the third overall pick in this year's MLB draft, leads the team with 19 homers. UF's pitching staff has issued just 2.03 walks per nine innings, the second-best rate in the country. Florida enters the CWS as the top-seeded team in the field. The Gators are hungry for a title after coming up short last season, where they fell to South Carolina in the championship series.

Arkansas (44-20)

The Razorbacks fought off elimination in the Waco Super Regional, beating Baylor in consecutive one-run games to punch their ticket to Omaha. The Hogs are one of the worst hitting teams in the field, averaging just 5.3 runs per game this season, and third baseman Matt Reynolds anchors the lineup with a .338 average. Arkansas' pitching staff has been the team's strong point. The Razorback pitchers have a combined ERA of 2.90, which is tied with Florida for the lowest in the CWS. Arkansas has shut out ten opponents this season, the second-most in school history. The Hogs are making their first trip to the College World Series since 2009.

Kent State (46-18)

The Golden Flashes captured the Mid-American Conference championship, endured a 21-inning marathon against Kentucky in the Gary Regional, and knocked off Oregon on the road to advance to their first-ever College World Series. Kent State's bats have been hot all season, as the Golden Flashes roll into Omaha with a .302 team batting average. Kent State's pitching staff has been solid as well, led by David Starn. The senior has 123 strikeouts on the year and is eighth-best in the nation. Kent State is the first school from the MAC to make the CWS since Eastern Michigan in 1976.



Gamecocks sweep OU

**USC outscores Sooners 10-1
in Super Regional**

Rixon Lane

SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Ray Tanner once said that he would never go to the College World Series unless his team was participating.

He will be making his sixth trip this week.

For the third straight season, South Carolina is heading back to college baseball's biggest event. The Gamecocks swept the Oklahoma Sooners over the weekend to punch their ticket to Omaha.

USC took game one by a score of 5-0, as ace pitcher Michael Roth led the Gamecocks to their second shutout of the postseason. The senior hurled 7.2 scoreless innings in his final career start at Carolina Stadium, allowing just six hits while striking out three batters on the evening. Roth improved his NCAA tournament career record to 6-0 and received a lengthy standing ovation following his final pitch. The senior then came out of the dugout to tip his cap to the crowd.

"All the guys were telling me that the fans were calling for a curtain call," Roth said. "That was my first and last one here, so that was pretty cool."

South Carolina grabbed an early 3-0 lead in the second inning and extended it to 5-0 in the seventh. USC was led offensively by center fielder Evan Marzilli and first baseman Christian Walker, as the duo tallied half of South Carolina's eight hits.

"You can never have too many runs," Marzilli said of the three-run second inning. "It's very important to go out there and establish an early

lead, especially in a game like this."

Mother Nature wreaked havoc on game two of the Super Regional, as the Gamecocks and Sooners were only able to play five innings on Sunday before the threat of heavy rain caused the game to be delayed for over an hour. Once play resumed, the teams were only able to squeeze in half an inning before another onset of rain caused the game to be suspended with the score tied 0-0 in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Once play started again on Monday afternoon, South Carolina seized control. The Gamecocks plated two runs in the top of the seventh inning to take their first lead of the game. The Sooners cut the lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the frame, but USC responded with three more runs in the eighth to put the game out of reach.

Junior Matt Price recorded the save for the Gamecocks, the 41st of his career, tying the all-time SEC career record. Price received a warm welcome from the crowd when he entered in the seventh inning.

"Just coming into the game, it gave me some chills," Price said afterwards. "This could possibly [have been] my last game at Carolina Stadium, so I was just taking everything in."

The Gamecocks will now prepare to face a familiar foe in Omaha. USC's opponent in their CWS-opener will be the Florida Gators, who took two of three games against South Carolina in Columbia in the second conference series of the season. The Gamecocks and Gators will play at 9 p.m. on Saturday night.

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Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Gamecocks celebrate after defeating Oklahoma and winning a spot in the 2012 College World Series.